U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
South Jersey Ice and Cold Storage - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region II

Subject: **POLREP #1**
South Jersey Ice and Cold Storage
A26W
Vineland, NJ
Latitude: 39.4895070 Longitude: -75.0235380

To: Judith Enck, EPA
Gary Pearson, NJDEP

From: Dwayne Harrington, On-Scene Coordinator
Date: 6/29/2016
Reporting Period:

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A26W	**Contract Number:**	EP-S2-15-01
D.O. Number:		**Action Memo Date:**	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	**Response Type:**	Emergency
Response Lead:	EPA	**Incident Category:**	Removal Action
NPL Status:		**Operable Unit:**	
Mobilization Date:	6/23/2016	**Start Date:**	6/23/2016
Demob Date:		**Completion Date:**	
CERCLIS ID:		**RCRIS ID:**	
ERNS No.:		**State Notification:**	06/23/2016
FPN#:		**Reimbursable Account #:**	

1.1.1 Incident Category

1.1.2 Site Description

The site is a three-story ice manufacturing and cold storage facility in a downtown residential area of City of Vineland, and has been in operation since 1922. The current owner assumed operations around 1998. The facility's refrigeration system contains an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 lbs of anhydrous ammonia gas.

1.1.2.1 Location

544 East Pear Street, Vineland, New Jersey 03860 Cumberland County

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Anhydrous ammonia is a CERCLA Extremely Hazardous Substance, a CAA 112(r) RMP Regulated Substance, and a US DoD and DOJ Category 1 Toxic Industrial Chemical (i.e., battlefield-deployable chemical weapon).

An inspection of the facility's refrigeration system by the City of Vineland Fire Department via a qualified consulting refrigeration engineer determined that the system is an extreme state of disrepair, to the extent that it presents an immediate threat to public safety. The engineer's recommendation is that since the necessary emergency repairs to the system would not likely be implemented in sufficient time, the ammonia should be immediately removed from the system to protect public and worker safety. EPA inspected the facility on June 23, 2016, and concurs with the concerns of the engineering report about the state of deterioration of the system and the immediate threat to public safety. An off-site consequence analysis by EPA determined that a worst-case release of ammonia from the facility would impact approximately 15,208 residents

1.1.3

Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On 6/28/16, RPB met on site with the facility's engineering contractor, EPA ERRS and engineering sub-contractors, the City of Vineland's engineering contractor, and representatives from the City of Vineland and Cumberland County Health Department. It was agreed the refrigeration system is in a very serious state of disrepair and immediate steps are necessary to protect the surrounding community and workers. Of particular concern is the condition and location of pressure relief discharge vents relative to the immediate homes and surrounding community.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA met on site on 6/28/16 with the facility's engineering contractor, EPA ERRS and engineering sub-contractors, the City of Vineland's engineering contractor, and representatives from the City of Vineland and Cumberland County Health Department.

Of particular concern was the condition and location of pressure relief discharge vents relative to the immediate homes and surrounding community. There are also concerns about mechanical contractors being able to perform work directly on the outdoor components of the system given its state of deterioration. It is also suspected that the overall system contains a significantly larger volume of anhydrous ammonia, possibly in excess of 10,000 – 12,000 lbs, which will significantly affect potential off-site release impact.

It was agreed by the facility and EPA that an emergency aqueous scrubber system can be directly installed to the emergency relief vent system to prevent an off-site impact to the surrounding neighborhood. The facility has requested a 45 day extension to remove product from the facility prior to beginning planning the decommissioning of the system and a facility closure plan. EPA informed the facility that the immediate concern is the installation of the emergency scrubber, after which the further system mitigation activities and timetables will be discussed. The facility owner's engineer is preparing construction specifications for the emergency scrubber system to be provided as soon as possible to EPA for review by our engineering contractors. EPA (via ERRS) is prepared to respond to secure the system and install an emergency scrubber system in the event that the facility fails to do so in a timely

manner.

EPA, the Vineland Solicitor, and the Vineland Fire Chief met with the Mayor of Vineland and briefed him on the conditions at the facility and the current plans to address them. The City of Vineland will begin a community outreach and notification system to educate and prepare messages for residents for emergency warning and notification to take appropriate protective actions in the event of ammonia release from the facility. It was decided that a general press notification was not advisable in this situation, and that a focused neighborhood outreach would be more appropriate by the Vineland Fire Department. The City of Vineland will be the main point of public contact for public information.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

RPB and ORC will determine if an Order or other enforcement action is necessary to ensure actions are taken immediately by the facility to ensure public safety.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Waste Stream	*Medium*	*Quantity*	*Manifest #*	*Treatment*	*Disposal*

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

It was agreed by EPA and the facility that an emergency aqueous scrubber system can be directly installed to the emergency relief vent system to prevent an off-site impact to the surrounding neighborhood. The facility has requested a 45 day extension to remove product from the facility prior to beginning planning the decommissioning of the system and a facility closure plan. EPA informed the facility that the immediate concern is the installation of the emergency scrubber, after which the further system mitigation activities and timetables will be discussed. The facility owner’s engineer is preparing construction specifications for the emergency scrubber system to be provided as soon as possible to EPA for review by our engineering contractors.

2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA is prepared to respond to secure the system and install an emergency scrubber system in the event that the facility fails to do so in a timely manner.

2.2.1.2 Next Steps

EPA will continue to monitor and oversee the facility's progress in securing the system against release and the removal of the anhydrous ammonia from the system.

2.2.2 Issues

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.